NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

(CYBER TIP LINE)........1-800-843-5678
WWW.MISSINGKIDS.COM/CYBERTIP

Be sure to make internet use a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than a child's bedroom. Get to know their "online" friends just as you get to know all of their other friends!

Important Phone Numbers

Non-Emergency.........................614) 277-1710

Emergency 911

Crime Prevention ....(614) 277-1765

Anonymous Tip Line ....(614) 277-1808

Investigative / Narcotics
Bureau..(614)277-1750

INTERNET SAFETY

Mayor Richard L. Stage

GROVE CITY DIVISION OF POLICE

3360 Park Street • Grove City • Ohio, 43123

911 . . . Emergency

Non-Emergency 614. 277.1710
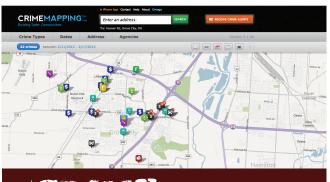
POLICE.GROVECITYOHIO.GOV

"The mission of the Grove City Division of Police is to serve and protect all by providing professional law enforcement services in partnership with the community."

CRIME MAPPING

NEW! Now you can find out information on criminal activity in Grove City or in your own neighborhood. Information on reported crimes over the past 30 days is available by clicking on the Crime Mapping link at **POLICE.GROVECITYOHIO.GOV.**

INTERNET SAFETY

HOW PARENTS CAN REDUCE THE RISKS:

Most online services and Internet providers allow parents to limit their children's access to certain services and features such as adult oriented "chat" rooms and bulletin boards. Check for these when you first subscribe. In addition there are now programs designed specifically to enable parents to prevent children from accessing inappropriate materials on the Internet. These tools, while not foolproof, are useful for helping parents control their child's access, but they cannot take the place of parental involvement and supervision.

The best way to assure that your children are having a positive online experience is to stay in touch with what they are doing. One way to do this is to spend time with your children while they are online. Have them show you what they do and ask them to teach you how to access the services.

If you have cause for concern about your children's online activities, talk to them. Also seek out the advice and counsel of other computer users you know and become familiar with online use.

MAKE IT A FAMILY RULE TO:

• **Never** give out identifying information such as home address, school name, or telephone number, in a public message such as a chat room or bulletin boards. Be sure you're dealing with someone that both you and your child know and trust before giving information out via e-mail. Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information. Consider using a pseudonym or enlisting your child's name if your service allows.

• **Never** allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. If a meeting is arranged, make the first one in public, and be sure to accompany your child.

• **Never** respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you or your child feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. If you or your child receives a message that is harassing, of sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your online provider and ask for assistance.

By taking responsibility for your child's computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online.

Should you become aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography while online , immediately report this to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by calling 1-800-843-5678, or the Grove City Division of Police at (614) 277-1710. You should also notify your online provider.

• **Remember** that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person, it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him or herself. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a 12 year old girl could in reality be a 40 year old man.

• **Remember** that everything you read online may not be true. Any offer that's "too good to be true" probably is. Be very careful about any offers that involve your coming to a meeting or having someone visit your home.

• **Set** reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder. Remember to monitor their compliance with these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer. A child or teenager's excessive use of online services or bulletin boards, especially late at night, may be a clue that there is a potential problem. Remember that personal computer and online services should not be used as electronic baby-sitters.